

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Troops continue to sharpen skills

Story and photo by 1st Lt.
Jeremiah Wildermuth
Special to the Herald Union

With redeployment quickly approaching and the scorching Iraqi

sun pushing temperatures well over 115 degrees Fahrenheit, the 141st Signal Battalion continues training in order to keep Soldiers' warrior skills sharp.



Soldiers from the 141st Signal Battalion hone their marksmanship skills in the Iraqi sand.

The battalion conducted four M-16A2 rifle and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon firing ranges. Soldiers took on convoy reaction drills, drivers training and common task training in addition to the marksmanship qualifications and refresher training.

The primary focus of the training was to prepare approximately 30 Soldiers, who had recently arrived from Germany, for the rigors of patrolling through central Iraq and convoy operations to Kuwait. Other Soldiers underwent sustainment training to keep their skills sharp.

Demonstrating ingenuity and creativity, the battalion's NCOs found a few ways to fight the heat.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wood, range noncommissioned officer in charge of Alpha Company, devised a plan to shade the entire firing line using a solar shield. This technique

not only helped Soldiers qualifying but also made the range safety and tower NCOs' job much easier. Wood also brought to the range a deep freezer, stocked with ice, ensuring cold water for all soldiers. These procedures were implemented across the battalion to beat the heat while they continued to train.

The training, though difficult in the heat, helped build the confidence of the new Soldiers and left them prepared for what lies outside of the safety of the Baghdad International Airport.

"Arriving in Baghdad, I had a lot of worries," said Pfc. Broderick Punch of Bravo Company, "but with all the training and the Soldiers and NCOs really bringing me into the team, I feel pretty calm about heading down to Kuwait. And if something does happen, I'll know how to handle it."



Wiesbaden happenings

July 20 — Free trip to the Frankfurt Palmengarten with MWR; rock climbing with Outdoor Recreation

July 21 — Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen restaurant; Family Night at the dining facility; trip to Miramar wave pool, bicycle clinic or shopping at Wertheim Village with Outdoor Recreation; Dawg Days of Summer with ACS in Dexheim; high school Movie Night-Matrix Marathon

July 22 — Free bowling; trip to Frankfurt wave pool or Rudesheim bicycle trip with Outdoor Recreation; Wellness Spa at Tony Bass Fitness Center

July 23-24 — Austria Adventure with Outdoor Recreation

July 24 — Free shopping trip to Strasbourg, France with MWR; inline skating at Aartal with Outdoor Recreation

July 25 — Bingo at the Community Activity Center

July 28 — ACS Dawg Days of Summer in Aukamm; Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen restaurant

July 30 — ACS birthday bash

July 31 — Free shopping trip to Frankfurt with MWR

Aug. 3 — Dance lessons at ACS

Aug. 4 — Kontakt Dexheim meets at the single soldier lounge; Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen Restaurant

Aug. 11 — Fall Fashion Show at Flyers Theater.

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Cleaning up includes picking up after pets

Commentary by Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Enjoying a stroll through the countryside or taking a leisurely walk in the city or through housing areas can be a fun pastime. But one wrong step and that peaceful stroll can ruin the entire day.

Unfortunately it's not how you walk or where you walk, but what you might accidentally step in that could put a damper on the entire day.

The most common complaint by many residents is a stinky one.

Complaints of stray animals seem to have all but gone away leaving behind a different hot topic at community forums – "people just don't seem to be cleaning up after their dogs."

A noticeable fact of life here in Germany is that German citizens are very environmentally conscious. Everything has its place — plastics, paper, cans, bottles, yard waste and yes, even pet waste. In fact it is not only considered rude, but basically intolerable when pet owners fail to clean up after their pets.

As Americans living overseas we must remember that we are guests of our host nation. As such we must abide by the rules and customs of the local populace. However there is more to it than just following rules and customs. Our actions and behavior speak louder than words.

What we do represents Americans as a whole.

It only takes one person showing disrespect or plain disregard of the host nation's customs, such as not picking up after a pet, to have Americans as a whole perceived as rude and inconsiderate.



It may not be the most pleasant thing to do, and there are certainly times when we'd like to keep on walking as "Fido" does his thing. But not only should we be considerate of the customs of our host country, we should consider others around us — those who are on a leisurely stroll or playing in the park shouldn't have to worry about where they step.

Next time you're out for a walk be sure to clean up after your pet.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Cheering for Independence Day

Wiesbaden's Child and Youth Services cheerleaders perform for the crowd during the Fourth of July fest at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Cool weather and sporadic rain showers didn't stop more than 2,000 people from enjoying the festivities.

Proper recycling avoids trash woes

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Recently 221st Base Support Battalion officials announced a change in garbage pick-up affecting some of the housing areas.

Fortunately the word got out and 99 percent of residents followed the new procedure of removing their 250 liter garbage cans from the condos and placing them next to the curb for trash pickup.

"The change was planned for later in the year; however, at the last minute the city informed us it would take effect immediately," said Gerry Gidej, director of Public Works.

But the change in how trash is removed from housing areas has nothing to do with garbage continuously piling up. During recent town forums residents continued to comment on trash spewed throughout housing areas.

"While driving through housing areas I was dismayed to see bags thrown haphazardly in or around the garbage condos and recycling pads," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st BSB commander. According to officials, many residents are not using the recycling bins properly. Over 60 percent of American garbage is recyclable.

Recycling made easy

Recycling in Germany is a way of everyday life and mandatory for all Soldiers, civilians and their families stationed at installations throughout U.S. Army Europe.

To make recycling easier, recycling pads have been or will be placed within walking distance of every home.

Yet many still find recycling to be a bit

confusing and simply throw everything in the trash. So just what goes in the trash and what gets recycled? The easiest thing to remember is that paper, glass, metal, plastics and clothing can all be recycled.

Paper and cardboard

Located in the recycling pads, one can find two different colors of dumpsters. The blue is called the Altpapier bin. This is for paper products such as newspapers, magazines, catalogs, brochures, office paper and flat cardboard. What cannot be placed in these containers are pizza boxes, milk cartons or photography paper. Staples, tape and plastic windows on envelopes must be removed from items before being discarded.

Plastics and plastic foam

The yellow container is for the Gelbe Sack or what is typically known as "yellow bags." Yellow bags are given free to residents to help ease the recycling process and can be picked up at the Home Improvement Store in Hainerberg Housing. There are three main types of items that can be discarded in the yellow bag — metal, including all aluminum cans, plates, lids and aluminum foil; plastic, including bags, bottles, jugs, bowls (such as margarine or yogurt containers) and plastic foam; cartons, including milk cartons and vacuum-sealed bags.

Glass

Other containers found throughout housing include Altglass. These containers do not look like your typical "dumpster" and are normally subdivided into three containers with holes in the side. Each subdivision is labeled "clear," "green" and "brown" glass.

With these containers just separate the glass by color and put them in the proper subdivision. Bottles and jars do not need to be rinsed, but be sure to remove the cap or lid before placing in the bin. Glass items such as window glass, mirrors, porcelain or light bulbs cannot be placed in these containers.

Several household items are also recyclable such as batteries, shoes and clothes.

Batteries

Old used batteries should never be thrown into normal trash or into the yellow bags. When a piece of metal or some water comes in contact with those batteries it causes a current to flow and thus provides heat needed for a fire to begin.

Throughout the community there are several drop-off points for all types of batteries. Bins are located at all shoppettes, commissaries, Aukamm and Hainerberg Elementary Schools, Hainerberg Main Exchange and of course the local Self Help Store. Old automotive batteries can be returned to the location where you purchased the new battery, free of charge or taken to the Self Help Store. Never leave car batteries on curb sides or by trash cans.

Clothing

Don't throw away old usable shoes or clothing. Several shoe collection points are available in Aukamm Housing. Clothing recycle bins are labeled "Kleiderspende" and located throughout all housing areas. Clothing must be placed in a bag and sealed before being disposed of in these bins.

With just these simple steps, recycling can be done easily in the home and help the environment at the same time.

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They're back: Iron Soldiers begin returning home from extended deployment in Iraq

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Iron Soldiers are streaming back into the arms of loved ones and friends throughout the 221st Base Support Battalion.

Yellow ribbons, American flags and welcome home banners have been the backdrop to scenes of reunions for 1st Armored Division units which deployed to Iraq more than 14 months ago.

"It's been 16 months for my wife and I. First I deployed and then she deployed," said Lt. Col. Patrick Sargent, while waiting in Hangar 1036 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield for his wife, Lt. Col. Sherry Sargent, arriving among a group of Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command July 11. More than 200 Soldiers, family members and even pets filled the hangar while awaiting the four buses to arrive.

Less than a week earlier, the hangar also served as the reunion place for 1st AD Band Soldiers and their family members. Although band members had returned home earlier this year and began block leave, everything changed when the announcement was made that 1st AD units would be extended in

their deployment. Following the announcement, those who had returned home packed up their gear and headed back to assist their comrades through the rest of the deployment.

"Some of us knew it was going to happen," said one spouse. "But it was good to just have him home for a little while."

Not all reunions occurred at the airfield. Families and friends lined up along the outer perimeter fence at McCully Barracks July 10 to catch a glimpse of buses bringing home 76 Soldiers of the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion. Mothers, fathers, children and friends waved flags and cheered as the buses moved along the access road into the casern.

In the last few weeks some children met their fathers for the first time. Others took hesitant steps toward this unfamiliar person in DCUs. But it didn't take long for hugs and kisses to be had by all.

Over the next several weeks more and more Iron Soldiers will be returning to the community and reuniting with families and friends. Members of the 221st Base Support Battalion staff said they welcome the chance to serve those who served in harm's way.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

A daughter runs into the arms of her father just after Soldiers were dismissed from formation at a welcome home ceremony for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st AD, Division Support Command Soldiers.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke
Nailah Nguyen signs a Welcome Home banner while waiting for her father, Capt. Steve Nguyen, at a welcome home ceremony.



Photo by Karen Edge

Tears stream down the faces of spouses and Soldiers alike as 1st Armored Division units begin returning home.



Photo by Karen Edge

Family members cheer and wave as buses carrying 501st Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers pass by en route to McCully Barracks in Wackernheim.

Families take advantage of free excursions

Story and photos
by Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Thanks to the Hessen state minister, 1st Armored Division families spent a day at a local amusement park for free.

Following the announcement of the extension of 1st AD Soldiers in Iraq, Roland Koch gathered his resources and provided tickets and entertainment avenues to 104th Area Support Group officials for family members affected by the deployment. Several families expecting to be on block leave with their spouses now found themselves changing flight plans and rearranging trips in order to wait until the Soldiers came home.

"It was a sincere show of solidarity when the German officials offered our families another avenue to get out and see some of Germany while they wait for their loved ones to return," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, commander of the 221st Base Support Battalion.

With tickets in hand, Team 221st and Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials set off on a course of action to provide extra activities for 1st AD families, one of which included the free trip to Taunus Wunderland.

Never having been to the park near Wiesbaden, Kristin Norton, Lori Dixon and their daughters took advantage of the offer and spent a nice sunny day in the Taunus Mountains riding several rides, getting wet on the log ride and strolling through the Grimm Brother's storybook land.

"It was a lot of fun and it helped to get out of the house and have something to do to



Jamaica Norton and Haley Dixon spin the wheel of a merry-go-round while playing at Taunus Wunderland just outside of Wiesbaden. Both girls' fathers are assigned to 1st Armored Division units that were extended while deployed in Iraq.

keep my mind off when he'll be coming home," said Norton as she watched her four-year-old daughter, Jamaica, jump on a trampoline with friend Haley Dixon.

"The whole deployment has been rough on Haley, but she knows Daddy will be coming home soon," said Dixon.

"I don't mind the extension so much. This

is their job and is why they joined the Army. They're defending our country. But it would sure be nice to have them home someday soon," said Norton, who is expecting their second daughter to be born soon.

That day is drawing closer and closer as 1st AD units have begun returning home to their families.



Haley Dixon, age 4, peers out as water splashes her on a log ride with her mother, Lori Dixon, while at Taunus Wunderland. Tickets to the amusement park were provided by the Hessen state minister for military family members.

DPW does best to put customers first

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Providing excellent customer service is something every organization strives for, but the fact of the matter is that it is hard to please everyone all the time.

But going out of his way to help people is just what one Directorate of Public Works employee does each day.

"It's no good for Soldiers to be away training or deployed knowing their family isn't taken care of," said Robert Robinson, a customer service representative for the past four years with DPW.

When customers have a work order needing to be resolved or a complaint, Robinson is the primary contact at DPW. Sometimes waiting for work to be done or having an appointment at an inconvenient time can fluster even the best of us. Whatever the service, Robinson is constantly ensuring customers are taken care of.

"We continuously receive feedback from happy customers who have been pleased by Mr.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

To better serve customers, DPW now accepts work orders at the Hainerberg Exchange Saturday mornings.

Robinson's help," said Gerry Gidej, director of public works. In fact, several residents have spoken up at community forums praising Robinson's assistance.

Using the gift of gab, as he calls it, Robinson makes it a personal priority to ensure every customer is satisfied. If a customer is having a problem getting an appointment Robinson makes the calls to make it happen and ensures the time is convenient for both the customer and the worker.

"I just try to get around the red tape and ensure the customer is

taken care of and the work is done correctly," he said. "A lot of people forget what it is like to be the worker bee ... they want it done 'now.' I just try to organize the work and make sure it happens, but it is the guys in the shop that actually get things done," said Robinson.

As with any organization, pleasing everyone is a tough job.

"There are times when I have to be the bearer of bad news, but I make sure the customer knows we are looking out for them and are doing our best to help in any way we can," he said.

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Community news notes

Command changes

Lt. Col. Stephen Zephir assumed command of the 317th Support Center (Rear Area Operations Center) from Lt. Col. Alma F. Fernandez in a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield June 12.

Lt. Col. Kyle D. Campbell assumed command of the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion from Lt. Col. Patrick E. Sargent in a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Airfield July 1.

Technology expo

A technology expo will be held at the Community Activity Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield July 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 40 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest in information technology. All military personnel and contractors are invited to the free expo.

Commissary hours change

Beginning July 26, the Wiesbaden Commissary will be closed every Monday. The Commissary is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EFMP support

Join the Exceptional Family Program support group the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 22 at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Tae bo pro to visit

Martial arts master and actor Billy Blanks, will visit the Wiesbaden community July 28. Several events will be held throughout Wiesbaden Army Airfield including an autograph session. For more information contact the Tony Bass Fitness Center at mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

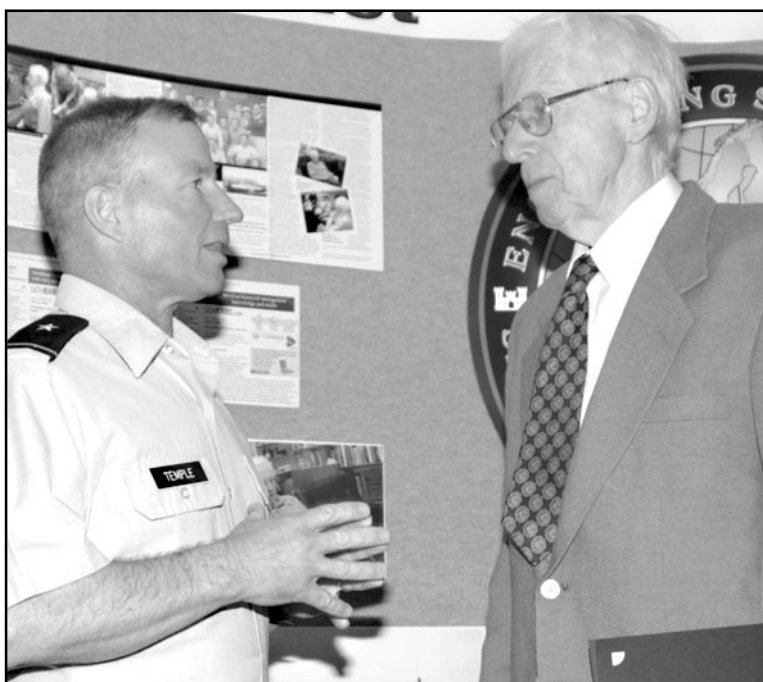


Photo by Andrew Stamer

Years of service recognized

Brig. Gen. Bo Temple, commander, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, talks with Louis "Lou" Brettschneider, a veteran employee of Europe District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in front of a collage of Brettschneider's life. Brettschneider was inducted into the Department of Defense Career Civilian Exhibit, a new display within the Pentagon that opened in May. Because he was unable to make the unveiling ceremony in Washington, D.C., he was recognized at the Europe District Headquarters in Wiesbaden where he had worked for over 49 years. Out of 30 people who were nominated, Brettschneider became one of only nine people who are featured in the exhibit. The exhibit focuses on exemplar civilians as part of the Department of Defense work force from 1789 to 2004.

Victim support offered

If you are a victim of domestic violence, help is available. Contact the Victim Advocacy Program coordinator at mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

ACS birthday

Celebrate Army Community Service's 39th birthday July 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a free barbecue, games and prizes for the entire family. During the party, ACS will offer an "Around the World" dance demonstration. ACS is located in

Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing.

Flea market

The monthly indoor flea market will be held at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center July 24 at 11 a.m. Sellers can rent a table for \$10. Tables are limited. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Soccer registration

Youth soccer, flag football and cheerleading registration is ongoing at the Central Enrollment Office in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. Practice begins Aug. 16, games

Sept. 11. Coaches are also needed. Registration ends July 30. For more information call mil 338-7610 or civ (0611) 380-7610.

Girl Scouts

Summer programs for Girl Scouts will be held at the Girl Scout hut in Aukamm Housing every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information and to preregister for events call civ (06123) 89 9593. The Girl Scouts host a Twilight Camp Aug. 2-6 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. To sign up call civ (0611) 716 9726.

Dance classes

Army Community Service hosts line dancing, Latin, country and western and popular dance classes Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Children put on production

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse and the Children's Summer Theater Workshop proudly present an original children's theater production entitled "PLOP! and Other Fantastical Animal Tales." Performances will be held at 2 p.m. July 22, 23 and 25 and at 7:30 p.m. July 24. Tickets can be purchased at the Hainerberg and Wiesbaden Army Airfield USO offices or at the playhouse by calling mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

School registration

Registration for the upcoming school year is ongoing at all Wiesbaden schools. Even if your child is currently a student, you must re-register for the coming year. Hours of registration for all Wiesbaden and Dexheim schools during the summer will be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Registration at Aukamm Elementary School will only be held in the mornings. For

information call mil 337-7004 or civ (0611) 705-7004.

Position open at credit union

Andrews Federal Credit Union is currently seeking a loan specialist for their headquarters office at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The position requires three years of office experience including one year in lending. For more information call mil 337-5681 or civ (0611) 978 7535.

Graduation DVD available

A DVD of the 2004 Gen. H.H. Arnold High School graduation and video teleconference is available at the school's main office. The DVD is a free gift provided by Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander.

Nutrition classes

The Wiesbaden Women, Infants and Children-Overseas office offers free nutrition classes the third Tuesday of the month. Classes are held at 1:30 p.m. at the WIC-O office, Building 7005 in Crestview Housing. For information call mil 338-7366 or civ (0611) 380-7366.

Boss night

Tough day at the office? Chips and dips are on the house and drinks are on your boss every fourth Thursday of the month at the Victory Point Bar at the Community Activity Center.

Free bowling

Spouses and families of deployed Soldiers can bowl for free at both the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Bowling Centers every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. during Iron Family Bowling. Shoe rental is also free. Contact your Family Readiness Group leader to obtain your special programs pass.

FCC providers needed

Join the 221st Base Support Battalion Family Child Care program. Stay at home with your children while building a career. Providers receive free training and nationally recognized accreditation. For information call mil 338-7729 or civ (0611) 380-7729.

Meet at Rheinblick

Hold your next gathering at the Rheinblick Golf Course. Conference facilities are free of charge when combined with a catering package. Rheinblick also offers unit tournament packages. For information call mil 336-2816.

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Clubs

Bowl for free

Strikers has free bowling every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. for all families.

Bowling specials

Bowling specials include Monday Night Madness 5-11 p.m.; Tuesday Nifty Fifties Night 5-11 p.m.; Wild Wednesdays starting at 5 p.m., \$5 cover charge and 25 cent games; Early Birds Bowling on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday Color Pin Bowling from 6-11 p.m.; Friday Kids Night Out from 6-11 p.m.; Saturday Cosmic Bowling from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday Family Bowling from 1-9 p.m.

Rudy's

Grab Bag Night is offered every Thursday from 5-10 p.m. For every purchase of \$5 or more you can grab at a chance to win a prize.

Golf course

Rolling Hills Golf Course offers Thursday night golf scrambles. Sign up in the Pro Shop from 3-5:30 p.m. Shotgun start is at 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$10 and nonmembers pay greens fees.

Recreation

Free trips

Free deployment trips are offered throughout July. Register by calling mil 485-6115. The following trips are offered:

- July 24, Ikea shopping trip in Mannheim
- July 31, Legoland Germany.

Outdoor Rec trips

Outdoor Recreation sponsors a trip to Legoland July 25.

Free swim night

Teens can enjoy a refreshing swim for free every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-8 p.m. at the Baumholder indoor pool.

Take advantage

Single Soldier Advantage Cards are available at the MWR table in the Any Day Tent during reintegration. With this card, single Soldiers can take advantage of free and reduced price services.

Free shuttle

A free shopping shuttle to the Ramstein and Vogelweh exchange facilities is offered by Outdoor Recreation.

Advance reservations are required and may be made by calling Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-7182.

Trips are offered to Ramstein on Tuesdays and to Vogelweh on

Baumholder happenings



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Photo opportunity

A German soldier from the 5th Navy NSB records the landing of an F-16 at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. German soldiers from the 5th NSB specialize in security and are currently the force protection contingency responsible for guarding and protecting the gates of Baumholder. A few participated in a tour of Spangdahlem Air Base on July 1st. This tour is part of an ongoing effort to build bridges between the US and German forces. Soldiers from Germany's 5th Navy NSB have been guarding Baumholders since last summer.

Thursdays.

Call Outdoor Recreation for departure times. A coupon for 20 percent off purchases and a coupon for \$2 off lunch will be offered to 14 shoppers per trip.

Express shuttle

A free Saturday express shuttle is offered to families of deployed Soldiers. Call mil 485-6115 beginning the Monday before the trip.

ACS

Reservations

Reservations for the following classes may be made by calling mil 485-8188.

Rest of your life

A series titled The Beginning of the Rest of Your Life, designed to provide young couples with the needed skills to build a strong and lasting foundation, is now offered at ACS. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for details.

Parental power

A Parent Power Rules session that focuses on control tactics is scheduled for July 20 from 3:30-5

p.m.

Tot group

Parents and Tots Playgroup (birth to pre-school) meets every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m., at Iron Kids Play Group Room in Building 8222.

Nurturing parents

Empowering Nurturing Parents is a group for nurturing graduates to continue the learning. It meets every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kids Play Room in Building 8222.

Coffee break

Spouse's Coffee Break offers support for all military spouses and meets every Wednesday and Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kids Play Room in Building 8222. Bring your children along.

A free meal

Breakfast with ACS offers a free hot breakfast every Friday from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Family Readiness Group building. In addition to a hot meal, a 30-minute program on parenting or couple issues will be provided by professional counselors visiting from the States. Breakfast menus will change weekly, so mark your calendars

for every Friday.

Free counseling

Professional counselors from the United States are available this summer to help the Baumholder community through reunion and reintegration. Their services are free and available at the Any Day Tent and ACS. At the tent, counselors are available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; at ACS from 3:30-8 p.m. If you need crisis intervention or short-term assistance, call Army Community Service at mil (06783) 6-8188 and ask for a visiting counselor.

Youth

Hourly child care

Families of E-5 deployed Soldiers can now receive 10 free hours per month of respite care. Call for reservations.

Infants to kindergarten care is offered at the Dispensary and Strassburg CDCs.

Kindergarten care is offered at Wetzel and Smith CDC.

First- through sixth-grade care is offered at Wetzel SAS, mil 485-7475; Smith SAS, mil 485-6641; and

Neubrück SAS, mil 485-7731.

Iron Kids Play Group

The Iron Kids Play Group meets every Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 8222. The sessions are offered to children ages birth to pre-school.

Sports, fitness

Take a dive

Free Family Swim Nights are offered Friday from 6-9 p.m. through July. Swim nights feature games and activities for kids.

Sports lineup

The Baumholder community level softball team takes on K-town July 24 and Spangdahlem July 31 at 11 a.m.

Summer league racquetball runs from July through September.

The 104th Area Support Group unit level softball championships are July 31 to Aug. 1.

AAFES

Promotions

AAFES offers the following promotions during July:

Saturdays, free movie matinee at the Wagon Wheel Theater starting at 4 p.m. (The free Saturday movie continues through Aug. 28.)

☛ July 20, free movie rental with the purchase of a DVD box set

☛ July 24, Casio demo sale

☛ July 24, car sales picnic and drawings

☛ July 30, JVC demo sale

☛ July 30, Back to school fashions sale

☛ July 31, Panasonic demo sale

☛ July 31, car sales, picnic and drawings.

Off post

Let's rock

An open air concert featuring rock and heavy rock music is scheduled July 31 at Burg Lichtenberg, the old fortress between Kusel and Baumholder.

On the ticket are the bands Making Whoopie, the hard rock band P#H*F and X-Change.

The music begins at 7:30 p.m. and the last band starts playing at midnight. Admission is €9 at the door and €7 in advance. Advance tickets are available at Bistro Vis a 'Vis in Baumholder and Sportshaus Wirtz in Kusel.

To get to Burg Lichtenburg, take L-176 toward Kusel and follow it down the hill until you reach the village of Tallichtenberg and follow the signs to the fortress.

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Photo by Chris Sorrells

Superman, alias Scott Crawford, a professional actor, takes a healthy stroll with several Baumholder family members during Healthy Lifestyle Day.

Superman flies in, promotes awareness of healthy lifestyles

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

He's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and is able to leap tall building in a single bound and recently he took time out to help Baumholder residents become more aware about health and wellness.

Superman was Baumholder's guest June 26 during the community's Healthy Lifestyle Day. Like any celebrity, he took time to sign autographs and pose with his fans. But a healthy lifestyle was the order of the day so he also joined family members

in a walk around Minnick Field and Smith Barracks and took in a few frames of bowling at Strikers.

A health and wellness fair consisting of several information booths at the Hall of Champions also helped residents become more health oriented.

"Health and wellness weaves itself through every agency and organization in this community, and the entire day was a great opportunity for us to inform the Baumholder population about the services we provide," said Chris Sorrells, health promotion coordinator. "We looked at this day as our gift to the community before

bringing their Soldiers back."

Some of the activities at the Hall of Champions included blood pressure screenings, cholesterol and glucose screening, running shoe clinic and injury prevention, spiritual health and fitness by the community chaplain's office; alcohol and substance abuse, nutrition awareness, courtesy of Baumholder's Women, Infants and Children program; and fitness assessments that checked body fat and flexibility.

"Overall it was a big success. We made sure everybody was happy," said Tony Ramsey, sports coordinator.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Soldiers keep rolling home

Baumholder's Soldiers began returning home July 2 and since then they have been arriving in droves. Each group, ranging from 100 to 150 Soldiers or more, is greeted with a welcome home ceremony, kisses from family members and well wishes from friends.



New Garmisch lodge to accommodate R&R program guests

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

There's always room at the inn for Soldiers and their families on Rest and Recuperation leave. That's the word from Jason Palmer, sales manager for the new Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

Palmer was in Baumholder June 24 to let Morale, Welfare and Recreation employees know what the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort has to offer.

The 330 room facility opens Sept. 15, just in time to accommodate Soldiers who will be taking their R&R leave after returning to Germany. Of the 330 rooms, 16 are suites. "We can accommodate families of two all the way to nine," said Palmer.

Palmer explained the R&R program is a discounted program for people serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The R&R program has a \$45 price tag per day,

per person, that includes breakfast and dinner and discounts on tours. "They pay \$15 (for a tour program), and if they get a ski lesson they can ski all day. Additionally, kids eat for free, kids stay for free and kids recreate for free. It's just a phenomenal program and we're really excited about it," said Palmer.

"So those folks who are coming back into country, those family members who want to take advantage of the AFRC and the R&R program, give us a holler.

"We always have availability, no matter what, for R and R folks," said Palmer.

The Edelweiss resort will not only offer rooms, recreation and touring, but it will also be a state of the art conference center. "We will have a grand ballroom that will seat 500 as well as break out rooms with state of the art audio visual equip-

ment.

"Another thing that we're very excited about is that the resort is 600 meters from the World Cup finish line. You could sit on your balcony and watch the World Cup (ski) race. The views are unbelievable, incredible," said Palmer.

The question that begs to be asked is how far out are they booked? "Right now we still have availability in the fall for rooms, and the conference facility is booked up through February," said Palmer.

He pointed out that force protection is second to none at the Edelweiss.

"With the new hotel the amenities are going to include a lot more than what we have to offer in the other hotels ... and in this facility we have 100 percent force protection," said Palmer.

"We will still maintain the facilities that we have right now, like the Vacation Village, where our campground is, where our cabins are. We will also maintain the Hausberg Lodge, that's where our Outdoor Rec programs take place," he said. Ski lessons will continue to be offered and the nine-hole golf course will also be maintained, with golf lessons.

"So we'll still have all these things to offer as well as a 330-room, five star hotel, a swimming pool, jacuzzi, the whole nine yards. We're really excited about this and we're really excited to get folks down there," he said.

To contact the Edelweiss Lodge and resort call mil 440-2575 or civ (08821) 72981. More information is also available at www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com.

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrück, Strassburg

Summer Hire Program provides experience, cash

By **LeAnne MacAllister**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

For many teens, summer is a time to relax, travel or watch more TV than the average person sits through in a year. Baumholder dependents who are 14 or older are offered another option. The Summer Hire Program provides teens what may be their first job and an opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

Lara Odle, school liaison officer for the 222nd Base Support Battalion, met with all students interested in summer hire positions in March and April. Upon completion of the application process positions were offered.

The Summer Hire Program offers three types of jobs — labor, clerical or child care. “Applicants indicate their preference, but not everyone who applies receives their first choice,” said Odle. “Still, everyone who applied received a job offer.”

Teens are working at the Community Mail Room, Provost Marshal’s Office, Child and Youth Services, 222nd BSB, post office, Property Book Office, Directorate of Logistics and even enjoying the summer outside by cutting grass.

Approximately 60 teens are working through the Baumholder summer hire program. Their employment began June 28. All positions last six weeks and end Aug. 5

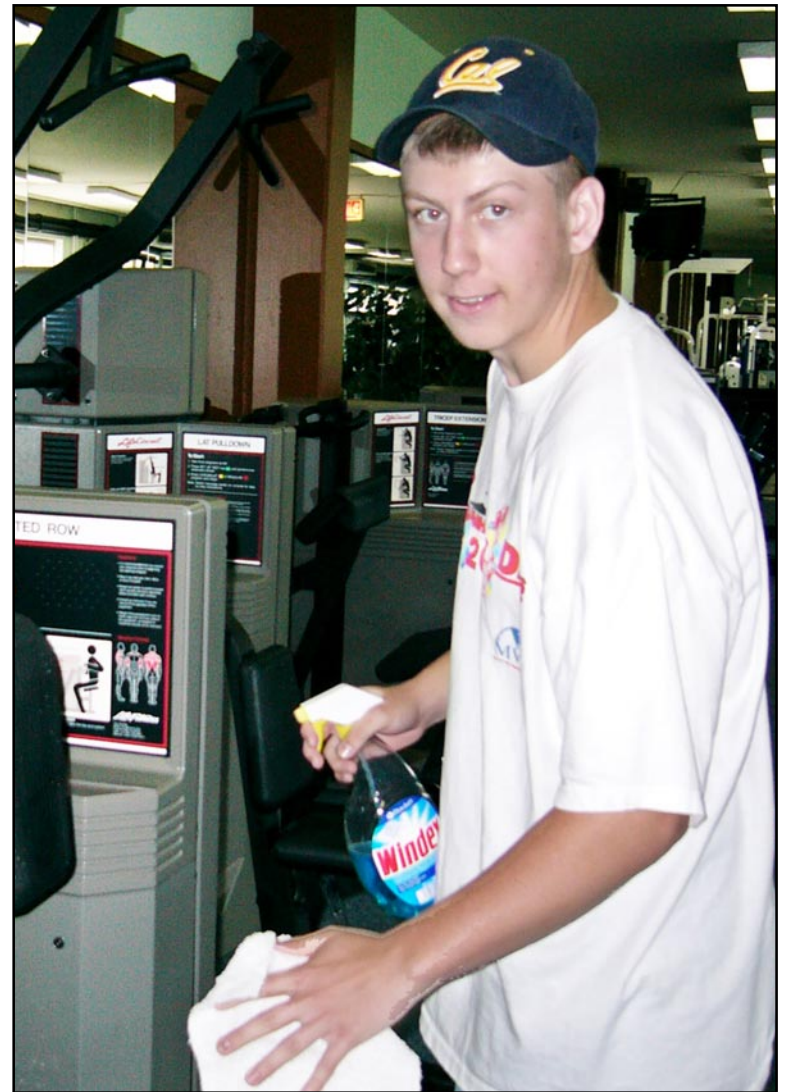
Candace Coats, age 17 and a

recent high school graduate, is working in the 222nd BSB. “It’s going great,” says Coats. “I like getting secretarial experience and I’m sure it will benefit me in the future when I am looking for other jobs.” Coats has gained experience in basic office functions, including typing, copying and answering the phone.

Zachary Feterl received his first choice of job options. He is working at the Hall of Champions. Although he and Coats both work 40 hour-

weeks, Feterl is working various shifts, including weekends. He works in the front office, signs out equipment, assists in cleaning and performs various other tasks. In addition to earning a paycheck, Feterl is glad to gain work experience. “This is the first time I’ve had specific responsibilities where I report to a supervisor. It is keeping me busy and I like the people.”

The summer hire program is offered throughout U.S. Army Europe communities.



Photos by LeAnne MacAllister
Keeping the fitness equipment clean and in order is just one of the responsibilities Zachary Feterl, a Summer Hire employee at the Hall of Champions, has to keep him busy this summer. Photo left: Candace Coats, a Summer Hire employee at the 222nd Base Support Battalion, puts some old documents through a shredder.

Summer school classes return to Baumholder

By **Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava**

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

For the first time in about eight years, Baumholder youth are enriching their minds during summer vacation. That’s how long it’s been since summer school classes were offered for students in the Baumholder community.

The initiative developed from a recommendation by family members to Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander. Bell visited Baumholder earlier this year and met with community leaders and Family Readiness Group leaders to outline his concept of family support while the 1st Armored Division was deployed.

While here, Bell told family members that summer school was going to happen, and it did. Baumholder and three other 1st AD schools are currently offering summer school to children.

“We have 148 students ranging from kindergarten through eighth-

grade enrolled in summer school,” said Bill Rose, principal for Baumholder’s summer school program. For many students this is their first summer school experience. “In the past, summer school was not offered because of staffing. Most Department of Defense Dependents Schools teachers use this time to go back to the States or travel in Europe. It is also a time when many parents want to take their children on vacation so it simply was not available,” said Rose.

During the deployment, many families are not traveling so summer school was a feasible program. To alleviate the staffing problem, Baumholder called on teachers from the Kaiserslautern District to assist and it seems to be well received by the students. “They really are enjoying it,” said Rose.

The curriculum builds on what the students already know. “It is an enrichment program rather than a remedial one,” said Rose. “All students were given a pre-test to determine their knowledge level on various sub-



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava
Heidi Politi, kindergarten teacher, uses cutout words to teach Trevion Cartuth and Noah Spaulding sentence structure.

jects, and a post-test will measure what they have learned,” said Rose.

In Alice Fozard’s kindergarten through second-grade class, the day’s enrichment begins with class leader Andrew Eminhizer leading his fellow students, visiting students from Karen Ellis’s class and both teachers in a patriotic start to the

day’s activities that include reciting the pledge of allegiance and a lively rendition of “A Grand Old Flag,” complete with flag waving and in-place marching. This daily ritual helps motivate teachers and students, and serves as a buffer period for any stragglers who might have taken a little more time to finish breakfast.

Three programs covering different age groups were developed by Voyager Learning, a stateside firm specializing in children’s education. Kindergarten through second-grade are participating in a program titled Kaleidoscope while third-through sixth-graders are tackling a Mysteries program and seventh-through eighth-graders are enrolled in a Media Magic program.

To familiarize teachers with the different programs, Voyager Learning sent trainers to Baumholder from the States. Teachers sat down with the trainers two weeks before school started to get acquainted with the educational material.

This year’s summer school is a four-week program that began June 28 and is scheduled to conclude July 23. Although requested by USAREUR headquarters, “DoDDS is footing the entire bill for this program,” said Rose.

Students from Smith, Wetzel and Neubrück Elementary Schools as well as the high school are enrolled in the program.

Rain or shine, July 4 offers wealth of good times

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder celebrated the Fourth of July in traditional style, complete with live music, games, rides, hamburgers and fireworks despite wind and rain.

The festivities, running from noon to midnight in outdoor tents near the Hall of Champions, attracted soldiers and their families by enticing them to the many events organized by the 222nd Base Support Battalion Directorate of Community Activities.

The festivities kicked off with a break dancing presentation. Holland, All That and Mallet continued the celebration with their jazz, rhythm and blues and rock performances, respectively.

The mechanical bull attracted a large crowd until it could not endure the rain.

Still the merry-go-round, Baumholder's own FearFactor, frozen T-shirt, pie- and jalapeno-eating contests entertained visitors into the night. Mouths aflame, contestants were allowed to take their left over jalapenos with them while

the winner walked away with a certificate for a weekend trip for two.

The celebration ended with a bang. The rain cleared just long enough for a full half hour of fire-

works fired from Minnick Field. Baumholder residents gathered at the Hall of Champions and atop hills all around post to gaze at the fireworks display.

No matter the weather, there's nothing like a grilled hot dog and fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July and Baumholder residents got their fair share.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
Jalapeno-eating contestants struggle during the contest. Photo left: break dancers warm up the audience.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
Pie-eating contestants dig into a creamy meal. Photo below: the audience checks out the action on stage.

